

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 12, 19, 23 and 25, cancel claim 24 and add claims 30-33, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A pest removal device for removing a pest from a surface of a body of an animal or human, the device comprising:

a main body formed of a compressible foam and having a substantially uniform thickness, a circumference, having an engagement side covered with an adhesive layer and a backing side positioned opposite the engagement side, wherein the main body is configured to conform to and attach to the surface to cover and smother the pest and the adhesive layer is composed of a material that is not irritating to human skin or animal skin; and

a single release tab extending from ~~an outer edge~~ the circumference of the main body and graspable to apply a pulling force to the main body and peel the main body off of the surface starting with a portion of the main body closest to the single release tab and finishing with a portion of the main body opposite the single release tab for removing the engagement side from the surface, wherein the single release tab is covered with an adhesive layer and a tab liner attached to the adhesive layer.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 1, wherein the pest is selected from the group consisting of insects, arachnids, and rodents.

6. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is penetrated with an antiseptic.

7. (Previously presented) The pest removal device of claim 6, wherein the antiseptic is alcohol.

8. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 1, further comprising:  
a storing liner to which the pest removal device is removably attached.

9. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 8, wherein the storing liner is spooled in a dispenser.

10. (Previously presented) The pest removal device of claim 1, wherein the backing side is covered with an adhesive layer.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A pest removal device for removing a pest from a surface of a body of an animal or human, the device comprising:

a main body that is generally circular and formed of a flexible, resilient foam material having a length, a width, ~~an outer edge~~ a circumference, an engagement side covered with a hypoallergenic pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a backing side positioned opposite the engagement side, wherein the main body is substantially flat having a substantially uniform thickness and the engagement side is attachable to the surface by the adhesive layer and conformable to the surface to cover and smother the pest; and  
a release tab extending from the ~~outer edge~~ circumference of the main body, wherein the release tab is generally semi-circular and graspable to

apply a pulling force to the ~~outer edge~~ circumference of the main body and peel the main body off the surface to which the main body is attached, the release tab having a length parallel to the main body length and less than the main body length and a width parallel to the main body width and less than the main body width.

13. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 12, wherein the main body length and width are equal and define a diameter of a circle.

14. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 12, wherein the release tab length and width are equal and define a radius of a half circle, the half circle extends from the perimeter of the main body.

15. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of the backing side is covered with an adhesive layer.

16. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 12, wherein the release tab is covered with a tab liner.

17. (Previously presented) The pest removal device of claim 12, wherein the release tab is constructed of a flexible, resilient foam material.

18. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 12, further comprising a storing liner to releasably attach to the engagement side of the main body.

19. (Currently amended) A pest removal device for removing a pest from a body surface of an animal or human, the device comprising:

a generally circular substrate formed from a compressible foam and having a first side, [[and]] a second side, and a diameter of approximately 1 inch, wherein the substrate comprises an engagement portion and a single release tab portion extending from an edge of the engagement portion and having a radius of approximately 0.125 inches, and the substrate is configured to be applied to and conform to the body surface to cover and smother the pest;

a hypoallergenic pressure-sensitive adhesive layer covering the engagement portion of the first side to contact the pest and releasably attach the engagement portion to the body surface, and covering the single release tab portion of the first side, wherein the adhesive layer and the substrate have a combined thickness that is substantially uniform and approximately 20 to 25 mils; and

a non-adhesive tab liner attached to the adhesive layer covering the single release tab portion of the first side, wherein the single release tab portion is usable to peel the engagement portion off of a storing liner and peel the engagement portion off of the body surface where the pest resides.

20. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 19, further comprising:

a storing liner to which the pest removal device is removably attached.

21. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 20, wherein the storing liner is spooled in a dispenser.

22. (Original) The pest removal device of claim 20, further comprising an adhesive layer covering the second side of the substrate.

23. (Currently amended) A pest removal device for removing a pest from a body surface of an animal or human, the device comprising:

- a substrate comprising a first side and a second side;
- means for removably storing the pest removal devices;
- means for securing the pest to the first side of the substrate by adhering the substrate to the body surface so that the substrate covers and conforms to the body surface and the pest to completely surround and enclose the pest;
- means for causing the pest to release itself from the surface; and
- means for holding the pest removal device without contacting the means for securing to permit the substrate to be peeled from the body surface with the pest secured.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of removing a pest from a body surface of an animal or human, the method comprising:

- providing a pest removal device formed from a flexible, resilient foam material and having a substantially uniform thickness, wherein the pest removal device comprises an engagement side covered with a skin-friendly pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, a backing side positioned opposite the engagement side, and a single release tab covered with a tab liner extending from the pest removal device;
- positioning the engagement side completely over the pest;
- securing the pest removal device to the pest and the body surface to completely surround and enclose the pest for a time sufficient to cause the pest to release itself from the surface; and

pulling the single release tab to peel the pest removal device from the body surface with the pest attached to the engagement side of the pest removal device.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
providing a storing liner to removably secure the engagement side of the pest removal device.
27. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
folding the pest removal device after peeling from the body surface to trap the pest.
28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
disposing of the pest removal device.
29. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:  
saving the pest attached to the pest removal device; and  
analyzing the pest for disease.
30. (New) A method of removing a pest that resides on an animal or a human, the method comprising:  
removing a pest removal device from a storing liner to which the pest removal device is removably attached;  
positioning the pest removal device on a surrounding surface of an animal or a human where the pest resides to completely surround and enclose the pest;  
maintaining the pest removal device on the surrounding surface for at least three minutes to cause the pest to release itself from the surface; and

pulling a release tab on the pest removal device to peel the device from the surface with the pest secured to the pest removal device.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the pest removal device is formed of a flexible, resilient foam material.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein pulling the release tab on the pest removal device to peel the device from the surface includes starting to peel off the device at a portion of the device located closest to the release tab and finishing with a portion of the device located opposite the release tab.

33. (New) A method of removing a pest embedded in a body surface of an animal or a human, the method comprising:

adhering a pest removal device to the pest and a surrounding body surface to completely surround and enclose the embedded pest;

maintaining the pest removal device on the pest and the surrounding body surface for at least three minutes in order to suffocate the pest and cause the pest to release itself from the body surface; and

peeling the pest removal device off of the body surface with the pest secured to the pest removal device.